

Publications Committee

[24]

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,

AUSTIN, TEXAS.



CIRCULAR No. 4.]

DECEMBER 2, 1885.

MESSING SYSTEM.

In July, Circular No. 1 was issued by the Faculty, stating that arrangements would be made at the opening of the Session 1885-6 to enable students to mess or club together; and it was further stated, that it was believed the necessary expenses of students could in this way be reduced to \$150 per annum. The Faculty take great pleasure in saying that two clubs have been organized since the beginning of the present session, and that the experience of the last two months has demonstrated the complete success of the "Messing System." In order to give publicity to this gratifying fact, the president of each club was requested to write out a statement of expenses, etc., covering the time the clubs have been in operation. These statements are given below, and attention is respectfully called to them.

CLUB No. 2.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
December 1, 1885.

DR. LESLIE WAGGENER,

Chairman of the Faculty:

DEAR SIR— You ask for information concerning our Messing Club, and what may be deduced from our experience. We started in on the 27th of October, with a membership of 11, and a promise of others, after having secured what we thought would be a suitable house at \$18 per month, and a cook with her son to do general work in kitchen, dining room, and making up rooms, at \$27 per month, this amount including the rent of stove which cook owns. Our numbers soon increased to 17 by others engaging rooms elsewhere and taking meals with us. A good deal of dining room and kitchen furniture had to be bought, though most of it was rented on favorable terms. We also succeeded in renting our household furniture, such as beds, some tables, chairs, bed clothes, etc. Our furniture was gotten from Col. J. K. Holland, who says that he can easily fit up another club on January 1, 1886, owning as he does suitable buildings. One real nice bed room set complete was bought second-hand at \$30, and is to be returned at end of session at half of that price.

With rather a small number for a good part of the time, we made it through the first month on \$12.50, and lived almost extravagantly, suffering few inconveniences. We have an excellent set of boys, or rather young men, who suffer little injury to morals, so strongly urged against the Messing System by some parties. We have seen enough of it to know that it is a success, and we expect to cut expenses down lower still, though we have been compelled to move into a more suitable house at a higher rent.

Very respectfully,

R. C. CRANE.

CLUB No. 1.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
December 1, 1885.

Dr. WAGGENER,
Chairman of the Faculty:

DEAR SIR — According to request, I present you with a report of the expenses of our Mess Club for the first two months of its existence, together with other matters concerning the club, which may be of interest:

Table board for twenty members, two months.....	\$267 68
House rent for twenty members, two months.....	100 00
Kitchen and dining room furniture.....	50 00
Total.....	<u>\$417 68</u>

This was paid from the common fund, and leaving off the item of kitchen and dining room furniture, which, of course, is a permanent investment and will last for several sessions, will make each member's charge for table board and room rent, where only two occupy a room, about \$9.20 per month.

The bill of fare, with occasional variations, is as follows:

BREAKFAST.

Biscuit,	Steak,
Oatmeal,	Butter,
Rice,	Syrup,
Coffee,	Sweet potatoes (fried).

DINNER.

Beans,	Rice,
Sweet potatoes (baked),	Cornbread,
Irish potatoes,	Biscuit,
Cabbage or turnips,	Lightbread,
Bacon,	Syrup,
Onions,	Prunes.

SUPPER.

Biscuit,	Syrup,
Oatmeal,	Bacon,
Rice,	Butter,
Honey,	Coffee.

Desert is *very* occasional, though we do have something of the kind at times, when it appears in the shape of sliced potato pie, or other like dishes.

To give you an idea of the cost of furnishing a room, I select one of the rooms, which is at least as well furnished, if not a little better, than the average:

1 table.....	\$2 00	1 broom.....	\$ 25
1 table cover.....	1 50	1 lamp.....	1 25
1 bedstead.....	3 25	1 stove.....	4 90
1 bed spring.....	3 25	1 coverlet (bed).....	75
1 mattress.....	2 50	1 pair blankets.....	4 50
2 chairs, rockers.....	5 50	1 comforter.....	1 25
1 washstand.....	1 50	2 pair sheets.....	2 00
2 pillows.....	1 50	3 pair pillow cases.....	1 50
1 bowl and pitcher.....	1 00	4 pair towels.....	1 60
1 mirror.....	2 00		

This gives a total of \$41 as cost of fitting up a room for two, where everything is bought, but it is obvious that quite a number of the above mentioned articles can be brought from home by the student, which will make the actual outlay in money less.

The club has rented two houses, one with eight rooms, the other with three, at an aggregate cost of \$50 per month. The cook is paid \$17.50 per month.

The officers of the club are a president and secretary, elected every six weeks, and a steward, elected every two weeks.

The code of rules is very short, as very few regulations are needed.

The club houses adjoin the University grounds, and the Faculty have very kindly furnished us a plank walk leading directly to the University building. Thus we are very comfortably situated.

As to the personnel of the club, eleven have been teachers, of whom three have occupied the position of superintendents in public schools, one has been a county attorney, and all are young men who have an object in life and waste no time.

The present officers of the club are D. A. Bliss, President; C. C. Storts, Secretary; and T. L. Henderson, Steward.

To recapitulate, it will cost each member, where two occupy a room, as follows:

Pro rata of room furniture, per session.....	\$20 50
Pro rata of kitchen furniture, per session.....	2 50
Table board and room rent, per month.....	\$9 20
Washing and laundrying, per month.....	2 00
Fuel and lights, per month.....	1 00
Total, outside of furnishing, per month.....	\$12 20

The success of this club has induced the formation of another, which has, I understand, twenty-six members. There can be no question that the Mess System solves the problem of cheap board.

Thanking you for the kind interest you have ever manifested in our welfare, in the name of the club, I subscribe myself,

Respectfully,

DON A. BLISS, President.

As recommended, the clubs have managed their own affairs—renting their houses, hiring their servants, buying their furniture, and administering their own rules and regulations. The result has been eminently satisfactory. Some of the best students in the University constitute the

membership; and the order, decorum, and good behavior of the young men thus organized have been admirable. Good comfortable houses can be obtained at reasonable rent, and other clubs can be formed at any time. Students can enter at the beginning of the Second Term of this Session, or in September of 1886, assured that if they so desire they can have the advantage of the cheap rates offered by these organizations.

It can be safely estimated that the entire expenses of students living in clubs will be as follows:

Board, etc., for session of 9 months, at \$12.50.....	\$112 50
Matriculation fee	10 00
Library fee—returnable at end of session.....	5 00
Text-books, about.....	15 00
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	\$142 50

In the case of Law Students the matriculation fee will be \$10 more, making their entire expenses, estimated, \$152.50.

Those students who prefer to board in private families will, of course, be permitted to do so. The rates in these, however, are much higher than the estimated rates in clubs. As published in the Catalogue, they vary from \$16 to \$20 and \$25 per month.

The Second Term of Session of 1885-6 begins Monday, February 15, 1886. For full particulars in regard to courses of study, etc., write for Catalogue.

Address,

LESLIE WAGGENER,

Chairman of the Faculty.